

# The American Journal of Occupational Therapy

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#### FROM THE DESK OF THE GUEST EDITOR

Themes From the Special Issue on Neurodegenerative Diseases: What Have We Learned, and Where Can We Go From Here?

Erin R. Foster

This issue of AJOT adds to the growing and evolving understanding of the effectiveness of occupational therapy-related interventions to meet the needs of people living with neurodegenerative diseases.

#### Health Policy Perspectives

#### HEALTH POLICY PERSPECTIVES

Defining the Value of Occupational Therapy: A Health Policy Lens on Research and Practice Amy Jo Lamb, Christina A. Metzler

As occupational therapy leaders position the profession to seize opportunities within the landmark policy shift created by the Affordable Care Act, it is essential to identify, produce, and effectively use evidence demonstrating the value of occupational therapy to nurture the growth of the profession.

### Special Issue on Effectiveness of Occupational Therapy—Related Interventions for Neurodegenerative Diseases

Method for the Systematic Reviews on Occupational Therapy and Neurodegenerative Diseases Marian Arbesman, Deborah Lieberman, Debra R. Berlanstein

The methodology for the systematic reviews on the effectiveness of occupational therapy-related interventions to meet the needs of people living with neurodegenerative diseases is described.

#### Systematic Review of the Effectiveness of Occupational Therapy-Related Interventions for People With Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Marian Arbesman, Kendra Sheard

Limited to moderate evidence supports benefits of multidisciplinary programs for longer survival and higher quality of life in social functioning and mental health for people with ALS.

#### Systematic Review of Occupational Therapy-Related Interventions for People With Multiple Sclerosis: Part 1. Activity and Participation

Chih-Huang Yu, Virgil Mathiowetz

People with MS benefit from individualized, goal-directed interventions that address functional performance and promote participation.

#### Systematic Review of Occupational Therapy-Related Interventions for People With Multiple Sclerosis: Part 2. Impairment

Chih-Huang Yu. Virgil Mathiowetz

A review of the evidence on the effectiveness of occupational therapy-related interventions for remediating impairment in cognition, emotional regulation, and motor and praxis skills for people with MS found support for immediate effects on the targeted outcomes but little evidence for long-term effects.

#### Systematic Review of the Effectiveness of Occupational Therapy-Related Interventions for People With Parkinson's Disease

Erin R. Foster, Mayuri Bedekar, Linda Tickle-Degnen

Moderate to strong evidence exists for task-specific benefits of targeted physical activity training on motor performance, postural stability, and balance in people with PD.

#### Systematic Review of the Effects of Exercise on Activities of Daily Living in People With Alzheimer's Disease

Ashwini K. Rao, Aileen Chou, Brett Bursley, Jaclyn Smulofsky, Joel Jezequel

Occupational therapy intervention that includes aerobic and strengthening exercises may help improve independence in ADLs and improve physical performance in people with AD.

#### Children and Youth

#### Effects of Exergaming on Executive Function and Motor Skills in Children With Autism Spectrum **Disorders: A Pilot Study**

Claudia List Hilton, Kristina Cumpata, Cheryl Klohr, Shannon Gaetke, Amanda Artner, Hailey Johnson, Sarah Dobbs

Findings suggest that use of exergaming, specifically the Makoto arena, has the potential to be a valuable addition to standard intervention for children with ASD who have motor and executive function impairments.

# 66 Suitability of the Miller Function and Participation Scales (M-FUN) for Use With Israeli Children [ONLINE ONLY]

Tanya Rihtman, Shula Parush

The authors provide evidence for use of the fine and gross motor norms and the U.S. criterion-referenced participation scores of the M–FUN with Israeli children.

### Rehabilitation, Disability, and Participation

#### 67 Self-Generated Strategic Behavior in an Ecological Shopping Task

Carolina Bottari, Priscilla Lam Wai Shun, Guylaine Le Dorze, Nadia Gosselin, Deirdre Dawson

An analysis of the self-generated strategic behaviors of 5 people with severe TBI provides evidence supporting the use of self-generated cognitive strategies in real-world contexts in therapy for improving independence in everyday activities for this population.

#### Productive Aging

#### 77 Driving Errors in Parkinson's Disease: Moving Closer to Predicting On-Road Outcomes

Sherrilene Classen, Babette Brumback, Miriam Monahan, Irene I. Malaty, Ramon L. Rodriguez, Michael S. Okun, Nikolaus R. McFarland

Between-group differences and on-road driving errors that predicted pass or fail on-road outcomes are described in a comparison of 101 drivers with PD and 138 healthy control drivers.

#### Education

#### 86 Using Model Hands for Learning Orthotic Fabrication

Eric Hagemann, Camille K. Williams, Pat McKee, Andonia Stefanovich, Heather Carnahan

Trainees learning to fabricate orthoses who practiced with a nonpathological model hand made superior orthoses to those of trainees practicing on a real hand.

#### Professional Issues

# 95 Online Survey Examining Practitioners' Perceived Preparedness in the Early Identification of Autism [ONLINE ONLY]

Lesly W. James, Kris A. Pizur-Barnekow, Sandra Schefkind

The results of a survey of 1,396 occupational therapy practitioners on their preparation for early identification of children with autism provides baseline information concerning identified skills, practices, and barriers as well as opportunities for professional development.

#### Departments

#### 96 Brief Report

#### Factors Associated With Comfort Level of Occupational Therapy Practitioners in Providing Low Vision Services

Sandra Winner, Hon K. Yuen, Laura K. Vogtle, Mary Warren

Results of a survey of 100 occupational therapists on their perceived adequacy of educational preparation for and comfort level in providing services to clients with low vision provides an initial direction for improving low vision content in occupational therapy education curricula.

#### 102 BRIEF REPORT

# Phenomenological Examination of the Mealtime Experience for Mothers of Children With Autism and Food Selectivity

Michelle A. Suarez, Ben J. Atchison, Mary Lagerwey

A qualitative interview study describes the mealtime experience of mothers of children with autism and food selectivity.

#### 108 CENTENNIAL VISION

## Five Years of Mental Health Research in the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 2009–2013 [ONLINE ONLY]

Sharon A. Gutman, Emily I. Raphael-Greenfield

This article identifies the strengths and limitations of the body of research on occupational therapy in mental health and provides directions for practitioners and researchers to enhance occupational therapy's role as a valued mental health service provider.

### Research Opportunities

#### 109 Research Opportunities

### Research Opportunities in the Area of Older Adults With Low Vision

The AOTA Evidence-Based Practice Project has developed a table summarizing the state of current available evidence on interventions within the scope of occupational therapy practice for adults with low vision.

#### 111 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

#### Research Opportunities in the Area of Productive Aging

The AOTA Evidence-Based Practice Project has developed a table summarizing the state of current available evidence on interventions within the scope of occupational therapy practice for productive aging.